

Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT:REUTER'S ARTICLE CONCERNING NATO AEW SPEECH
-- BY MGEN PUSTAY

REF: USNATO 2695 (REPEATED TO ADDRESSEES SEPTTEL)

1. QUOTE FROM REUTER'S NEWS ARTICLE IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL
DISTORTS REMARKS MADE BY MAJOR GENERAL JOHN S. PUSTAY AT
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR ON TECHNOLOGY
AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. AS THE REMARKS IN PARA. 2
SHOW, GENERAL PUSTAY WAS NOT CRITICAL OF EITHER FRG OR UK
GOVERNMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATO AEW PROGRAM OR NATIONAL
DECISIONS PERTAINING TO IT.

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THE COMPLETE TEXT OF GEN. PUSTAY'S REMARKS WERE
RELEASED BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE AT 4:00 P.M. (EDT), MAY 3,
1977. RELEVANT PORTIONS ARE QUOTED BELOW:

2. QUOTE: SUPPORT (BY THE UK) FOR TWO PARALLEL EFFORTS
DIRECTED TOWARD THE SAME REQUIREMENT CAUSED SOME MODEST
POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT IN BRITAIN, AND AS NIMROD DEVELOP-

MENT APPROACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE, THE PROSPECT OF AN UNSUPPORTABLE DRAIN ON THE EXCHEQUER LOOMED VERY LARGE.

BRITISH JOBS AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS WERE OBVIOUSLY INVOLVED. TO ESCAPE THIS SITUATION, BRITAIN NEEDED THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DECISION ON E-3A PROCUREMENT. THE EARLIER THE DECISION, THE MORE COMFORTABLE THE STEP ASIDE FROM NIMROD.

GERMANY, MEANWHILE, WAS MORE INCLINED TO LINGER. THE GERMAN NEAR-TERM MILITARY BUDGET WAS EXTREMELY TIGHT -- NEAR-TERM IN THE SENSE OF COMMITMENTS OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. THERE WAS AN ELECTION IN OCTOBER, MOREOVER, AND GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOT ANXIOUS TO PUSH A MAJOR APPROPRIATION REQUEST ON A NEW BUNDESTAG. CONSIDERABLE HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN THE RATHER COMPLEX QUESTIONS OF NATO AEW&C INTERFACE WITH OTHER RADAR AND DATA PROCESSING SYSTEMS CAUSED SOME HESITATION. OVERALL, THE GERMANS SUSTAINED SOLID SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM, BUT NOT FOR A RAPID PACE.

THERE WERE MANY OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, BUT THAT TENSION OVER TIMING BECAME SUFFICIENTLY GREAT THAT THE STRING TYING BRITISH SUPPORT TO THE PROGRAM FINALLY SNAPPED. THE MINISTERS MET IN THEIR EXTRAORDINARY SESSION IN MARCH, AND AGAIN ENDORSED THE PROGRAM, BUT THE OUTCOME WAS NOT CONSIDERED SUFFICIENTLY DEFINITIVE FOR THE U.K. ON THE LAST DAY OF MARCH, THEIR MINISTER OF DEFENCE ANNOUNCED TO PARLIAMENT THAT THEY WOULD PROCEED WITH FULL-SCALE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE NIMROD AS A BRITISH CONTRIBUTION IN KIND TO THE NATO AEW&C FORCE. UNQUOTE.

3. THE MAIN THEMES OF THE PRESENTATION WERE: TO DESCRIBE OBJECTIVELY THE CAPABILITIES OF THE SYSTEM; TO TRACE BRIEFLY THE HISTORY OF NATO'S ATTEMPT TO ACQUIRE A NATO AEW&C CAPABILITY; AND FINALLY TO DESCRIBE IN A POSITIVE LIGHT WHAT IS AHEAD FOR THE ALLIANCE AS IT SEEKS TO MEET ITS AEW&C NEEDS THROUGH WHAT PRESENTLY APPEARS TO BE AN INTEROPERABLE FORCE OF NIMRODS AND E3A'S.

4. FOR BONN AND LONDON. REQUEST YOU ENSURE THAT CLARIFICATION AS NECESSARY IS MADE AT APPROPRIATE MOD LEVEL. OTHER EMBASSY ADDRESSEES MAY USE AS THEY SEE FIT WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.

5. US MISSION NATO SHOULD ALSO CLARIFY AS APPROPRIATE WITH PERMREPS.

6. DOD IS ALSO BRINGING MGEN PUSTAY'S REMARKS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FRG AND UK EMBASSIES HERE, NOTING OUR REGRET AT THE DISTORTIONS IN THE REUTER'S ARTICLE. WE MAY ALSO MAKE A BRIEF COMMENT ON THE MATTER AT THE DOD PRESS BRIEFING.

CHRISTOPHER

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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Drafter: EREHFELD:OSD/ISA:COL. HOLTZCLAW:MHB
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